

Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting from Thursday 18th June 2020 at 7:00pm
via **ZOOM**

Present: Councillors Lowther (chair) Greaves, Evans Parry, Smith and Grant

Officer Present: Parish Clerk

Borough & County Representatives: 3 – Councillor Rhodes joined the meeting at 7.30 pm

Members of the public: 4

Ref: Subject:

023/20 Apologies for absence - There were none.

024/20 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

025/20 Resolution to sign Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 21st May 2020:
The Minutes were accepted and signed.

026/20 Residents Questions:

Residents, in attendance, had interest in Agenda items 027/20 and 030/20 and remained for these items. There were no additional residents' questions.

Councillor Greaves, on behalf of parishioner Jamie Austen who was unable to attend the meeting, asked about the repairing of the track that has been churned up in Redmile. The track is passable at the moment as the weather is dry but is likely to become a problem going into winter. The Parish Council has previously made enquiries with regard to the downgrading of the byway. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Leicestershire Highways to ask if they can repair the track and/or close it prior to winter.**

027/20 Presentation and Q&A session from Mr Harry Soor representing Severn Trent:

The clerk had been in communication with Severn Trent who had agreed to make arrangements for Mr Soor to link into this evening's meeting but this was unsuccessful. **ACTION: Councillor Lowther asked the Clerk to invite Mr Soor to speak at our next meeting.**

028/20 Update from Borough and County Councillors:
Councillor Evans was in Attendance.

Cllr Steadman advised that car parking charges were back in effect throughout Melton. Many businesses including shops and pubs were looking at using village greens and car parks to arrange seating to assist with social distancing.

Councillor Byron Rhodes advised that:

(a) the first grass cut of the season had been completed and that work was commencing on the second cut.

(b) the County Council were trying to get the Household and Waste site open at Bottesford but were still experiencing social distancing issues. Councillor Smith advised that he had used the site at Melton and the service was first class.

(c) all Parish Councils should now be in receipt of the COVID 19 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Stakeholder Bulletin.

(d) Councillor Rhodes was advised by Councillor Smith of the potholes on Highgate Lane, Plungar

(e) Councillor Rhodes was asked by the Parish Council of the viability of downgrading byways. He advised that there are legal obstacles to doing this, there could be on-going problems with the roadways and applications are not usually successful. He agreed to talk this through with the relevant officers.

ACTION: Clerk to communicate with Councillor Rhodes prior to the next meeting.

029/20 Planning:

Applications received for consideration:

(a) The Clerk advised that no applications had been received since the previous meeting

Applications approved:

(a) 20/00165/FULHH – Watercombe, 6 Rutland Square, Barkestone-Le-Vale

(b) 20/00439/TCA – Overfields, 1 Belvoir Road, Redmile

- 030/20 Paddock Land, Plungar – Appeal to Planning Application:
- (a) Parish Council contribution towards advice: The Parish Council agreed unanimously to commit £5000 to get expert advice for the appeal. This was proposed by Councillor Evans and seconded by Councillor Parry.
 - (b) Community Contributions towards advice: An informal community group was up and running; the purpose being to make parishioners aware of what was happening in relation to the planning appeal. The Parish Council discussed a draft letter that had been prepared, by the Group, for distribution to request donations towards the advice. It was agreed that minor amendments were required to the letter and that the communication would be sent from the Parish Council.
- 031/20 Overfields, 1 Belvoir Road, Redmile:
The Clerk advised that she had written to Melton Borough Council to request a TPO be placed on the orchard. An email had been received from them advising that the request would be dealt with following the usual procedures.
- 032/20 Sustrans – Update on Licence Acquisition for Railway Path:
- (a) The Clerk advised that she had signed and returned the licence to Sustrans. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Sustrans asking for a completed licence with both parties' signatures.**
 - (b) A couple of parishioners have expressed an interest in being part of a sub-committee to arrange access points, etc, for the railway line and a request for volunteers will be in the forthcoming newsletter.
 - (c) The Parish Council unanimously agreed to look at the possibility of applying for a SHIRE Environment Grant to support the project. This was proposed by Councillor Lowther and seconded by Councillor Evans.
- 033/20 Housing Needs Survey:
The Parish Council would like an apology and assurance from Melton Borough Council that it will be fully consulted on future surveys. This was not the case on the recent surveys carried out in Plungar and Barketstone and Redmile. **ACTION: Councillor Evans to contact MBC.**
- 034/20 Vehicular Activated Signs – Redmile:
- (a) It was proposed by Councillor Evans and seconded by Councillor Grant that a battery or solar activated speed sign should be purchased by the Parish Council for use, initially in Redmile, and available for use in the other villages within the Parish. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Leicestershire County Council over how to proceed with the purchase of a sign.**
 - (b) The Clerk advised Councillors that she had contacted Community Speedwatch for an update in relation to the allocation of 'slots' for this year.
- 035/20 Barketstone Bus Shelter:
The repairs to the bus shelter are now complete. The Parish Council thanked Councillor Smith for arranging the work. All Parish Councillors agreed to the payment of the invoice for £500, which was a small increase to the original invoice as a result of increased costs for materials.
- 036/20 Barketstone Notice Board:
The Clerk advised that the notice board had now been ordered and the invoice had been paid.
- 037/20 Footpath Warden – Update:
- (a) Following a communication regarding the possible inaccuracy of the 3 churches walk, the walk has been undertaken by a number of people and it was found that one of the arrows was 'confusingly' placed. **ACTION: Clerk to write to the correspondent explaining the situation.**
 - (b) The Parish Council thanked Trevor Swinswood for all his hard work in preparing the latest report. It was proposed by Councillor Greaves and seconded by Councillor Lowther that a copy of the report be forwarded to Belvoir Estates to establish which of the footpaths are their responsibility and/or the responsibility of their tenants. **ACTION: Clerk to send report to Belvoir Estates.**
- 038/20 Actions Required from Previous Meeting:
Councillor Parry to forward amended licence on the acquisition of the railway path to Clerk for submission to Sustrans – **DONE**

Councillor Evans to communicate with MBC in relation to the planning appeal on the site at Barkestone Lane, Plungar – **DONE**

Councillor Lowther to speak with Redmile resident regarding the obstructing tree – **DONE**

Councillor Lowther to arrange a 'push test' on grave stones in Redmile Church – **ON HOLD – COVID 19**

Clerk:

To communicate with MBC in relation to the application appertaining to Overfields, 1 Belvoir Road, Redmile to enquire as to whether an extension would be given due to COVID 19 – **DONE by Councillor Evans**

To communicate with MBC requesting the non-removal of the Hawthorne – tree application in Conservation area – 20/00439/TCA – **DONE**

To communicate with LCC and Belvoir Estates with regard to the down-grading of the Byway, Church Lane, Redmile – PC in communication with LCC. Communication to Belvoir Estates – **DONE**

To obtain 2 further quotes for the tree works at Redmile Church – **OUTSTANDING**

To obtain 3 quotes for the work on the 10 leylandii trees that require chopping back to the play park boundary and the Hornbeam tree hangng over the play park sandpit – **OUTSTANDING**

To communicate with Belvoir Estate in relation to the overgrown hedge on Bakers Lane, Redmile – **DONE**

To communicate with Severn Trent to arrange a site visit to look at the viability of installing a water Fountain – **DONE**

To undertake 'housekeeping' of the website – **ON-GOING**

To communicate with the Diocese of Leicester in relation to the siting of a traffic mirror in the grounds of Redmile church – **DONE**

To communicate with Leicestershire Police with regard to problem cyclists in the Vale of Belvoir – **DONE**

To allocate newsletter items to Parish Councillors - **DONE**

Arrange a Redmile Play park inspection by Wicksteed – **ON HOLD – COVID 19**

039/20

St Helen's Church, Plungar:

A request had been received from the church for a contribution towards the grass cutting in the church yard during 2020. It was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Lowther that the Parish Council contribute £200. In addition, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to give a £200 contribution to St Peter & St Paul Church, Barkestone towards their grass cutting. This was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Lowther.

040/20

Financial:

- (a) Current account balance at 30.05.2020 - £11,982.54; Deposit Account balance - £14,764.02
- (b) Payments required for June 2020: Michele Jones - £486.20 – April Salary; Michele Jones - £486.20 - May Salary; LRALC - £20.00 – Using ZOOM webinar; G Richardson - £20.00 – Plungar War Memorial Maintenance; 2-Commuune - £552.00 – Website annual licence and hosting of domain and email; Councillor Lowther - £28.80 – Mileage (return journey to LRALC); E-on - £183.60 – Quarterly Maintenance Charge

(c) Direct Debits: E-on - £122.45 – Streetlighting (June)
All Parish Councillors agreed to the payment of the above.

041/20 Councillors' Reports:

- (a) Councillor Lowther advised that he was meeting with someone from LCC on 3rd July 2020. They are coming out to look at the Belvoir Road flooding. **ACTION: Councillor Lowther to report at next meeting**
- (b) Councillor Greaves reported an overgrown hedge on Main Street, Redmile. **ACTION: Clerk to write to the occupiers.** Secondly, he enquired if there was any movement on a Government proposal to make parking on pavements illegal (as it already is in London). His concern is that in rural communities there is an insufficient width to many roads for cars to park fully on the road and if they did this would prevent access to larger, especially emergency, vehicles. Councillor Evans advised that this would not be a Government priority at the moment but we should keep a watchful eye for any proposed legislation.
- (c) Councillor Parry requested that the Parish Council consider having a Hedges Policy in place. **ACTION: Clerk to draft a policy for consideration**
- (d) Councillor Smith advised that speeding cyclists were going too fast through the villages and there is an accident waiting to happen.
- (e) Councillor Grant reported that the canal bridge on the road going out of Plungar required attention. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Customer Services at LCC**

042/20 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk advised the internal audit for 2019/2020 had been completed and that there were no problems
The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's contract with E-on was due for renewal at the end of the year

043/20 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th July at 7pm via ZOOM

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm